

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

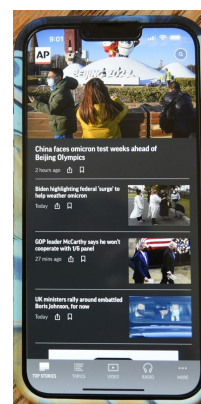
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

Jan. 18, 2023

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Jan. 18, 2023,

What a **RELIEF** for Ye Olde Connecting Editor!

A number of you responded to Tuesday’s call for your memories of working in AP relief positions – temporary entry jobs that sometimes launched great careers for those who held them.

While such positions no longer exist, there is still a good number of journalists working for The Associated Press who began their career as vacation, legislative or maternity relief. I look forward to your own story.

In the wake of [the death](#) of Gina Lollobrigida on Monday, colleague **Shirley Christian** recalled that there was a New York photo editor or photographer in the 70s who had a friendship with the actress and brought her to tour New York headquarters one day.

Connecting reached out to colleague **Lou Boccardi**, who was running the Rockefeller Center newsroom then, and Lou offered this recollection: "The photo person Shirley refers to was Tom DiLustro, a senior editor on Hal Buell's staff. Tom, a wonderfully likable guy who was also a top-flight picture editor, did indeed have a connection and he got Gina to drop in one day at 50 Rock, sometime in the '70s, I think. The A-wire didn't falter as Tom walked her around the fourth floor, but many heads turned. For once, reality lived up to the hype. As advertised, she was beautiful."

Colleague **Marc Humbert** thought Tuesday's Connecting "was extra special. Not only did I get to read a recounting by my old Albany colleague **Joel Stashenko** of his brush with death from cardiac arrest (thanks son Casey for saving your dad with the CPR you learned at school), but then we all got to see the lovely California landscape pix from **Nick Ut**. The award for the photo was obviously well deserved."

CORRECTION: In Charlotte Porter's remembrance of Jane See White in Tuesday's issue, her mention of the "croning ceremony" for Jane was autocorrected to "crowning ceremony." Charlotte noted, "I assume autocorrect never heard of the ceremonies to mark a woman's passage into her 'crone' years."

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Your memories of working AP relief

Tad Bartimus - I also started as legislative relief in Topeka, 1969 session. Then was transferred that spring to the Miami Bureau (what incredible luck!) and was off and running! Florida & Caribbean stories (and Latin America forays as stories broke), Saigon, Alaska, London, roving special correspondent Latin America, roving special correspondent US... what a great time I had, what great stories, what great interviews, what great AP colleagues! And Dean too, after we met in Alaska and got married 1978... a wonderful AP life for us both.

-0-

Hal Bock - I was the Mariano Rivera of the AP, a two-time reliever.

In the summer of 1960, the chairman of the NYU journalism Department sent me to see AP Sports Editor Ted Smits. I was hired for the Olympic Desk for the 1960 Games in Rome. My job was to arrange the agate summaries. The words from those Games were handled by Jim Kensil, Don Weiss and Jack Hand, three of the finest journalists and people I have ever been around. I worked for about six weeks and loved every minute.

Two years later, Smits hired me again as a vacation relief staffer. I had regular newsman responsibilities, baseball roundups mostly and anything that came up. I was surrounded by some All-Stars -- Jim Becker, Joe Reichler, Murray Rose, Will Grimsley, Mike Rathet among them. I was having the time of my life but in October it ended. There were no permanent openings available. I was sent back to the bullpen.

A year later, Smits reached out and added me to the staff. It was the third time he hired me and I stuck around for 40 years, including 13 Olympics, although I didn't do any agate on them..

-0-



Press badge issued July 19, 1979, by the Allegheny County sheriff.

Marcia Dunn - AP aerospace writer - My AP career began as a vacation relief staffer in Pittsburgh the summer of 1978, fresh out of college. The second day on the job, I found myself covering the year's biggest story. An iron worker who was helping to demolish the old Brady Street Bridge got his legs trapped in the trusswork, and a surgeon was called in to amputate high above the Monongahela River. Rescuers managed to save the man's left leg, but his right had to be sawed off. I can still remember dashing between the bridge and the closest phone booth a few blocks away to dictate. One of the biggest lessons of my AP career came as I walked into the AP office, unannounced, several hours later. News Editor Dave Tabolt stared at me in disbelief. I had failed to call him before leaving the scene, somewhere between a venial and mortal sin. Needless to say, I never left a news event again without first alerting my editors. I learned from the creme de la creme that remarkable, life-changing summer, working under the close guidance of Dave and Pittsburgh Correspondent Byron Yake, and alongside Earl Bohn, Jim McKay and sports writer Gary Mihoces. At the end of my three-month stint, Byron wisely suggested I get more daily newspaper experience and return to the AP the following summer, again as a vacation relief staffer. I did and the rest is AP history. I will mark my 44th consecutive year with the AP this May, forever in gratitude to all my fellow Pittsburgh colleagues

as well as the late George Zucker, the Pennsylvania COB who like Byron took a chance on me.

-0-

[Mike Graczyk](#) - I was familiar with relief pitcher and pain relief but relief staffer was a new one for me in 1972 when I was hired in Detroit as a long-term disability relief staffer, taking the spot of A.F. (Pete) Mahan. I believe at one time he carried the byline AP Labor Writer and long had covered the United Auto Workers Union in Detroit.

As I understood it, he was a top-scale staffer and NY Personnel agreed COB Clem Brossier could fill his spot but only with a much cheaper replacement. At first-year scale, I came cheap.

I'd been working in small-market radio in Michigan's Upper Peninsula after dropping out of grad school. As many small-market radio veterans know, your job tenure can be tenuous. In my case, the manager for the station ownership group was micro-managing the individual stations from another state. He lopped off a few people, including me. Fortunately, my station manager had liked my work, learned from Brossier the Detroit bureau was looking to fill a broadcast writer spot and urged me to apply.

Detroit was where I grew up. I recall coming into the bureau on a Saturday for the interview and the AP test. Clem was kind of a Lou Grant guy, imposing, stocky, with a brush-cut and a gravelly voice. He showed up for my interview straight from the golf course wearing a yellow, red and black plaid golf outfit. He definitely made an impression. The job technically was temporary, depending on Mahan's recovery from illness but he assured me it was highly unlikely Mahan would return and my relief gig could count toward completing probation and a permanent spot.

About a month later, I reported to work and became the third member of the Detroit bureau's broadcast writing staff, joining Rick Sylvain and Christine McKnight. They were great teachers and I was flying solo on the broadcast desk within a week or two, filling weekend and night shifts. It was a good time to join the AP, which had only recently started the transition from typewriters and tape punchers to CRTs. There were no copy and paste functions, however, on those big Hendrix 5200s and to this day I can still rip off on a keyboard what was an every-hour fixture: "Here is the latest Michigan news from The Associated Press". I was in a really good group in Detroit with fellow AP rookies like Harry Atkins and Pete Yost. Jon Wolman later joined us. We had non-stop news in Michigan, a significant and active membership and I learned so much -- often sink or swim -- that gave me a terrific foundation for what became 46 years with the AP, 11 in Michigan and 35 in Texas.

Personnel management in those early days appeared to be informal at best. I recall going into Clem's office months later and asked if I had indeed passed probation. He wasn't sure but said not to worry about it. I eventually received word to write the obligatory letter to GM Wes Gallagher, a signal that I'd made it.

-0-

Margaret Lillard - I was hired as maternity relief in Nashville in 1988 by Kent Flanagan. Bless him, he heard I'd gotten caught in the latest round of UPI layoffs (the last, I think, that got severance pay) and called me out of the blue to offer the job. I had ingested enough Unipresser Kool-aid that I never considered applying for an AP job, but I figured it would pay the bills until I found something my conscience would tolerate. Twenty years later ...

My love of the union was tested when I was included, to my surprise, in a grievance over the length of relief positions. I was hired for 14 months, but the union argued that anything over nine months should be made permanent. I wasn't made permanent - my term was shortened accordingly. Kent helped scout a permanent position, which is how this Southern-born, Southern and Hawai'i-raised kid ended up in New Hampshire and then GEN for over a dozen years.

I got an expenses-paid trip back south to become NC news editor, shifting back to the reporting staff (yay union again) before I finally figured out that I wanted to hug trees for a living. Once I settled at the Sierra Club's NC Chapter, I helped the Chapters staff (all of the Chapters, not just NC) form a unit of the Progressive Workers Union, where I'm now a steward ... fighting to get relief hires made permanent.

-0-

Tom Slaughter - You can add my name to the list of relief staffers. I parlayed the temp job into a 37-year AP career. Started in Topeka, legislative relief, working for the legendary Lew Ferguson.

-0-

Ed Tobias - I am one of those who began as a vacation reliever. In 1981, after an unexpected departure from the radio station where I had been working and a number of months of job hunting, Bill McCloskey hired me as a VR for AP Radio. Oh, what a relief that was.

I was only promised a few days a week but, somehow, McCloskey found a way to put me on the schedule at least five days of each week until I was "regularized," about a year later. Extra relief, and an AP career that would take me into retirement some 30 years later.

-0-

Arnold Zeitlin - I was a student in 1955 at Columbia journalism school, starving to death because my GI Bill money had not yet kicked in, I needed a job. My friend, Jim Kensil, working in Columbus, sent me to see Orlo Robertson, AP's deputy sports editor in New York, who got me a job as a copy boy, I think, for \$45 a week. I attended class all day at Columbia and worked the 5pm to 2am shift at AP's Rockefeller Center fourth floor. I hustled like crazy, having a great time. My work at AP was like an extension of my studies at Columbia. In March 1956, I was called over to see Paul Mikkelsen (SP?), who, I recall, was the day supervisor on the general desk. Was I interested in serving as vacation relief as an editor on the general desk. Was I? I started that spring, again on the 5pm to 2 am shift, staying on after graduation from Columbia in June 1956, filing the New England-South wires. Herb Barker was night supervisor and my role

model. I must have done something right because when the summer ended, I was asked to stay on through the 1956 Adlai Stevenson-Dwight Eisenhower election campaign. When the election was over, I was asked: Where did I want to go elsewhere in AP? Like a dope, I opted for the sports desk in New York. But that's another story. By the way, the lovely Jane Seagrave and I crossed paths in the Boston bureau in the 1980s.

My AP Hero

[John Willis](#) - Bruce Lowitt's mention of the Teleram in Tuesday's Connecting and the foto of the alums who gathered in LA for Rachel Ambrose's 80th reminded me of the time when an LA AP staffer saved my bacon, so to speak.

It was September 1976, and I had just been named Las Vegas correspondent. Quite a change from Omaha in more than just culture.

The Vegas bureau was a one-person affair in those days and the office was located just off the wire room in the Las Vegas Review-Journal newsroom.

We had the Hendrix terminals the entire time I was in Omaha, so I never learned to punch tape, and guess what the Vegas bureau had: the old style, tape punching, but no "operator."

"Yikes," I said to myself, as I nearly went into cardiac arrest, silently. I've forgotten his name, but a San Diego staffer had been sent up to fill in until I got to town, and he gave me a lesson in tape punching before he made tracks for SoCal.

There I was. The entertainment capital of the world with all those potential stories. I knew no one and hadn't a clue as to how to punch tape, even after the lesson. To top that, rain moved in and when it rains, it floods in Vegas. And the floods move from west to east by gravity and geography, so as soon as you get one story out, it's old hat and a new one has to be topped.

After a week of this and fearing my AP days were numbered, I called LA bureau chief Paul Finch.

He understood my issues (bless his heart), and he dispatched my hero, Linda Deutsch, to Las Vegas, and she was toting a Teleram!!

She showed me how it worked, and the rest is history. Paul and Linda saved me.

A few months later I got my own Hendrix in the bureau, and I was the happiest camper you've ever seen. To this day I am indebted to Paul and Linda for that Teleram.

Saved by the Tomlin Maneuver

[Dan Day](#) - Here's a tale from the mid-80s, when I was Omaha correspondent. Des Moines bureau chief Dave Tomlin and were visiting the Scottsbluff Star-Herald in the

Nebraska panhandle. At dinner, I ordered the prime rib, as suggested by the member editor if not required by state law.

As I recall, Dave was in the middle of telling one of his many yarns when all of a sudden, I began to choke on a piece of that thick cut of beef. I waved my arms a bit and didn't quite get to bringing my hands to my throat to give the universal "I'm choking" signal when Dave jumped up from his seat, got behind me and whacked me on the back.

Out popped the would-be-killer chunk of meat, and that was the last slab of prime rib I had for about five years.

Not that I needed another reason to be grateful to Dave, but the Tomlin Maneuver saved my life.

Stories of interest

A news site used AI to write articles. It was a journalistic disaster. (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

When internet sleuths discovered last week that CNET had quietly published dozens of feature articles generated entirely by artificial intelligence, the popular tech site acknowledged that it was true — but described the move as a mere experiment.

Now, though, in a scenario familiar to any sci-fi fan, the experiment seems to have run amok: The bots have betrayed the humans.

Specifically, it turns out the bots are no better at journalism — and perhaps a bit worse — than their would-be human masters.

On Tuesday, CNET began appending lengthy correction notices to some of its AI-generated articles after Futurism, another tech site, called out the stories for containing some “very dumb errors.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by David Egner.

-0-

Beloved correspondent Kerry Sanders retires after 32 years at NBC News (NBC Today)

By Scott Stump

A wide-ranging career at NBC News that has taken beloved correspondent Kerry Sanders to all 50 states and 65 countries — from reporting underwater in scuba gear

to asking tough questions of political figures — is coming to an end after 32 years.

Kerry's range as an award-winning reporter was celebrated on TODAY on Jan. 17 as he heads into retirement from a job that he began at NBC News in 1991.

"I think that I can't believe that I had this amazing opportunity to join this family," he said on TODAY. "I still pinch myself to think that you all welcomed me and that I was a part of this. It's been a dream come true."

The Peabody and Emmy award-winner seemingly covered it all since joining the team as a reporter out of NBC Miami affiliate WTVJ, whether it involved daredevil adventures like jumping out of airplanes and hanging from cliffs, or essential reporting on elections, mass shootings and legal trials that captivated the country.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

As elites arrive in Davos, conspiracy theories thrive online (AP)

By SOPHIA TULP

NEW YORK (AP) — When some of the world's wealthiest and most influential figures gathered at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting last year, sessions on climate change drew high-level discussions on topics such as carbon financing and sustainable food systems.

But an entirely different narrative played out on the internet, where social media users claimed leaders wanted to force the population to eat insects instead of meat in the name of saving the environment.

The annual event in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos, which opens Monday, has increasingly become a target of bizarre claims from a growing chorus of commentators who believe the forum involves a group of elites manipulating global events for their own benefit. Experts say what was once a conspiracy theory found in the internet's underbelly has now hit the mainstream.

"This isn't a conspiracy that is playing out on the extreme fringes," said Alex Friedfeld, a researcher with the Anti-Defamation League who studies anti-government extremism. "We're seeing it on mainstream social media platforms being shared by regular Americans. We were seeing it being spread by mainstream media figures right on their prime time news, on their nightly networks."

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Rape charges were dropped, but, 'If it wasn't true, why won't they clear it up?' (Manchester Union Leader)

Commentary by Mark Hayward

I WRITE THIS with a feeling of regret of the role I had in harming another person.

It comes from a piece I wrote in July 2015 — more than seven years ago — about a terrifying home invasion.

A Manchester woman described being tied up, beaten and raped for several days in her Beech Street apartment.

I was skeptical. "It's a story that stretches credibility," I wrote at the time.

But the very-alleged victim Kelly Papaleo provided a photo of her bruised face. She sat for an interview. And police had arrested two people and eventually a third.

But now I can say it was all B.S.

A few months after the arrests, prosecutors quietly dropped the charges against the three defendants.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

-0-

Getty Images Targets AI Firm For 'Copying' Photos (AFP)

By AFP - Agence France Presse

US firm Getty Images on Tuesday threatened to sue a tech company it accuses of illegally copying millions of photos for use in an artificial intelligence (AI) art tool.

Getty, which distributes stock images and news photos including those of AFP, accused Stability AI of profiting from its pictures and those of its partners.

Stability AI runs a tool called Stable Diffusion that allows users to generate mash-up images from a few words of text, but the firm uses material it scrapes from the web often without permission.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

The Final Word

Pearls Before Swine by Stephan Pastis



Shared by Len Iwanski

Today in History - Jan. 18, 2023



Today is Wednesday, Jan. 18, the 18th day of 2023. There are 347 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 18, 2020, ahead of opening statements in the first Senate impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, House prosecutors wrote that Trump had “used his official powers to pressure a foreign government to interfere in a United States election for his personal political gain,” while Trump’s legal team denounced what it called a “brazen and unlawful attempt to overturn the results of the 2016 election.”

On this date:

In 1778, English navigator Captain James Cook reached the present-day Hawaiian Islands, which he named the “Sandwich Islands.”

In 1911, the first landing of an aircraft on a ship took place as pilot Eugene B. Ely brought his Curtiss biplane in for a safe landing on the deck of the armored cruiser USS Pennsylvania in San Francisco Harbor.

In 1913, entertainer Danny Kaye was born David Daniel Kaminsky in New York City.

In 1943, during World War II, Jewish insurgents in the Warsaw Ghetto launched their initial armed resistance against Nazi troops, who eventually succeeded in crushing the rebellion.

In 1975, the situation comedy "The Jeffersons," a spin-off from "All in the Family," premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1990, a jury in Los Angeles acquitted former preschool operators Raymond Buckey and his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, of 52 child molestation charges.

In 1991, financially strapped Eastern Airlines shut down after more than six decades in business.

In 1993, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was observed in all 50 states for the first time.

In 2005, the world's largest commercial jet, the Airbus A380 "superjumbo" capable of flying up to 800 passengers, was unveiled in Toulouse, France.

In 2012, President Barack Obama rejected the Keystone XL project, a Canadian company's plan to build a 1,700-mile pipeline to carry oil across six U.S. states to Texas refineries.

In 2019, Jason Van Dyke, the white Chicago police officer who gunned down Black teenager Laquan McDonald in 2014, was sentenced to nearly seven years in prison.

Ten years ago: Former Democratic New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was indicted on charges that he'd used his office for personal gain, accepting payoffs, free trips and gratuities from contractors while the city was struggling to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. (Nagin was later convicted and released from prison in 2020.)

Five years ago: At the end of a visit to Chile that was meant to heal the wounds of a sex abuse scandal, Pope Francis accused victims of Chile's most notorious pedophile of slandering another bishop; Francis said he would need to see proof that Bishop Juan Barros was complicit in covering up the sex crimes of the Rev. Fernando Karadima. Texas executed by lethal injection Anthony Allen Shore, who became known as Houston's "Tourniquet Killer" because of the murder technique used on four female victims.

One year ago: AT&T and Verizon said they would delay launching new wireless service near key airports after the nation's largest airlines said the 5G service would interfere with aircraft technology and cause widespread flight disruptions. (Some flights to and from the U.S. would still be canceled despite the scaled-back rollout.) The White

House launched a website allowing Americans to request free at-home COVID-19 tests.

Today's birthdays: Movie director John Boorman is 90. Former Sen. Paul Kirk, D-Mass., is 85. Singer-songwriter Bobby Goldsboro is 82. Comedian-singer-musician Brett Hudson is 70. Actor-director Kevin Costner is 68. Country singer-actor Mark Collie is 67. Actor Mark Rylance is 63. Actor Alison Arngrim (TV: "Little House on the Prairie") is 61. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is 60. Actor Jane Horrocks is 59. Comedian Dave Attell (uh-TEHL') is 58. Actor Jesse L. Martin is 54. Rapper DJ Quik is 53. Rock singer Jonathan Davis (Korn) is 52. Former NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous is 50. Singer Christian Burns (BBMak) is 49. Actor Derek Richardson is 47. Actor Jason Segel is 43. Actor Samantha Mumba is 40. Country singer Kristy Lee Cook (TV: "American Idol") is 39. Actor Devin Kelley is 37. Actor Ashleigh Murray (TV: "Riverdale") is 35. Tennis player Angelique Kerber is 35. Actor Mateus Ward is 24.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



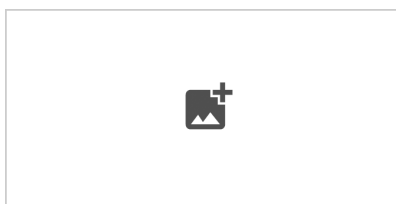
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!